Completion of Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line

441. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of the proposed Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail Line has been completed;

(b) whether this rail line would go through ST, SC and OBC populated areas; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take up the work on this line at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such data is not maintained. However, the line passes through economically and industrially backward area.

(c) The survey report is under examination in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the project will be possible once this examination is over.

Railway bridges in use

442. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway bridges throughout the country which are in daily use as on date;

(b) the total number of railway bridges which are averaged and crying for large scale repair;

(c) whether the bridge over the river Dhabe near Rafiganj where the accident of the Rajdhani Express took place on the night of 9th September, 2002 is one of them; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking adequate precaution before permitting the Rajdhani Express to move on the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There are 1,19,984 Railway Bridges throughout the country which are in daily use.